

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PO

SUBJECT: CANADIAN POSITION ON PORTUGUESE COLONIES

1. EXTAFF SECRETARY SHARP WAS QUERIED IN COMMONS  
APRIL 23 BY NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
CRITIC ANDREW BREWIN.

2. QUESTION: "IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT CONFIRMATION BY  
A GROUP OF PORTUGUESE OFFICERS OF THE EARLIER ACCOUNTS  
BY CATHOLIC PRIESTS OF THE MASSACRE OF CIVILIANS BY  
PORTUGUESE COLONIAL TROOPS IN MOZAMBIQUE, WILL THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TAKE THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT TO PORTUGAL, AN ALLY OF CANADA  
IN NATO, OUR ABHORRENCE OF THE REPRESSION OF THE  
REMNANTS OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIAL EMPIRE IN AFRICA  
AND WILL HE URGE PORTUGAL ONCE AGAIN TO GRANT FREEDOM  
TO THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS IN THESE AREAS?"

3. REPLY: "ON THE FIRST PART OF THE QUESTION, I  
HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THE REPORTS ON  
THE RADIO THIS MORNING. I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY,  
HOWEVER, THAT PORTUGAL CLEARLY MUST BE HELD  
RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY SUCH ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY  
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THEIR FORCES AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS IN THOSE

AFRICAN TERRITORIES. I AM HAPPY TO REPEAT TWO STATEMENTS I HAVE ALREADY MADE. FIRST, I HAVE URGED THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND I WILL DO SO AGAIN WHENEVER I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COLONIAL TERRITORIES. I WOULD REMIND THE HON. MEMBER THAT IN THE UNITED NATIONS WE VOTED IN FAVOR OF A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IMPARTIAL AND RESPONSIBLE COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO REPORTS OF MASSACRES IN THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES."

4. QUESTION: "WILL THE MINISTER GO BEYOND WHAT HE HAS SAID AND RAISE THIS MATTER PUBLICLY IN NATO WHICH PURPORTS TO BE A DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS? WILL HE CONSULT WITH THE OTHER ALLIES IN NATO TO ENSURE THAT NATO IS USED AS AN INSTRUMENT TO DEAL WITH THIS AFFAIR?"

5. REPLY: "I WOULD NOT GIVE AN UNDERTAKING TO RAISE THIS ISSUE PUBLICLY IN THE NATO FORUM. IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT WOULD NOT BE PUBLIC; NATO MEETINGS ARE NOT IN PUBLIC. AGAIN, AN EFFORT TO RAISE ISSUES OF THIS KIND IN A NATO CONTEXT HAS BEEN MADE AND IT HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY NON-CONSTRUCTIVE AND HAS ONLY LED TO LONG AND FUTILE DEBATE. HOWEVER, WE ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THESE REPORTS AND WE SHALL BE CONSULTING WITH OUR ALLIES."

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